

Application No. 10/674,971
Amendment dated August 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action of February 20, 2007

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention relates to preformed, manufactured interbody spinal fusion implants for placement between adjacent vertebral bodies of a human spine at least in part across the disc space between those adjacent vertebral bodies, without dangerously extending beyond the outer dimensions of the two adjacent vertebral bodies adjacent that disc space, to maximize the area of contact of the implant with the vertebral bone. For example, the present invention specifically excludes bone grafts harvested from a patient and shaped by a surgeon at the time of surgery such as those of cancellous or corticocancellous bone. The present invention can benefit implants requiring an element of rotation for proper insertion into the implantation space, and more generally, any and all interbody spinal fusion implants having opposed arcuate surfaces spaced apart to penetrably engage within the substance of the opposed adjacent vertebral bodies, as opposed to merely contacting those vertebral bodies at their exposed boney endplates. The present invention also relates to an improved interbody spinal implant that is capable of being inserted into a hole drilled across the disc space between two adjacent vertebrae and into the two adjacent vertebrae such that the spinal implant is capable of fitting within the transverse width of the spine when placed side-by-side next to a second of its kind.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 15 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 7A, trailing end 104 may be configured to complementary engage and instrument 130 for driving implant 100 into the installation space. Instrument 130 may have a centrally disposed projection 132

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and an off-center projection 134 for engaging recesses 142 and 144 of trailing end 104, respectively. Projection 132 is preferably threaded as is recess 142. A recipient site is prepared by drilling a hole across the disc space and into the adjacent vertebrae V. Once affixed to the implant driver instrument, the spinal fusion implant 100 may be then introduced through a hollow tube and driven into the hole that has been drilled across the disc space.